

*Governor's Forest Health Council*  
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body  
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –**  
***Governor's Forest Health Council***

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

**Arizona State Forestry/ADEQ Building**  
**1110 West Washington Room C145**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85007**  
**January 19, 2012**  
**9 AM – 12 PM**  
**Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831**  
**Passcode: 219418#**

**Minutes (draft)**

**1. Call to Order – 9:06 am Co-Chair, Ethan Aumack**

*Members Present:*

Co-Chair Ethan Aumack, Don Berry, Rob Davis, Steve Gatewood, Charlie Ester for Bruce Hallin, Larry Stephenson for Mark Herrington, Scott Hunt, Kevin Kinsall, Sue Sitko, Ron Williams, and Darrell Willis.

*Members via Tel-Conference:*

Pascal Berlioux, Paul Summerfelt for Mayor Sara Presler, Co-Chair Molly Pitts, Steve Rosenstock and Todd Schulke

*Members Absent:*

Wally Covington and Christine Dawe for Thomas Klabunde

*Public:*

Erik Nielsen, Patrick Rappold, Marcus Selig and Beth Nehring

Molly announced that today was her last FHC meeting. Ethan thanked her for her work with the Forest Health Council over the past years and that a thank you gift would be sent her from the Council members.

Policy Recommendation has been finished. A thank you was given to Marcus Selig on the completion of this project.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from the November FHC Meeting ~ Approved with one correction**

- Paul Summerfelt asked about under #4. Council Representation Ann Mottek-Lucas application as alternate for Steve Gatewood was left out of the minutes.
- Don Berry moved for approval with correction; Darrell Willis second.
- Minutes approved with one correction.

3. **Summary of Council business since last FHC meeting ~ Ethan Aumack**

- The bulk of the work since the last FHC meeting has been with Marcus and inputting all suggested changes into the FHC Policy Recommendations to the Governor since our the November meeting.
- The FHC also has been preparing for the presentation to the Arizona Corporation Commission.
- Molly had nothing to report.

4. **Council Representation update ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott reported that he spoke with Linda Styles at the Board of Commissions. They do over 300 boards and commissions and our committee is one that needs to have the alternate designees approved per Executive Order. Beth stated that FHC member applications were to go to Governor's staff for approval Friday.
- Kevin stated that the FHC members have been moved up on the list.
- Scott stated that he had spoken with Randy Ogden of Mt. Lemmon Fire Department to be on the Council to represent the Rural Fire Department. His recommendation was approved by FHC members. *Scott will contact Randy to submit an application.*
- Don inquired if Victoria Wesley had been contacted for the Native American representative.
- Ron inquired if Mayor Presler was able to get Don Walters to submit an application for Northern Arizona Real Estate.
- Molly inquired if Scott had been able to speak with Larry Fisher or U of A as a representative to the FHC. Ethan stated that he would be speaking with him tomorrow in more detail.
- Scott stated that we need to get a ranching representative. *Scott will contact or the Cattleman's Association for possible representation to FHC.*
- Larry Stephenson stated that Mark Herrington will not be running for reelection but was still interested in serving on the FHC in some capacity.
- Kevin stated that once Molly's resignation is accepted he has asked Scott to fill the vacant Co-Chair position.
- Ethan stated that for this meeting Molly Pitts will be Co-Chair and Scott Hunt will assume responsibility of Co-Chair at the next meeting.

5. **State of the State Report ~ Kevin Kinsall**

- Ethan stated that the FHC was ready to move forward with the recommendations that were developed by the end of 2011 by the members and finalized by Marcus. These recommendations were sent to Kevin for his review.
- Kevin thanked the Council and Marcus for a fine job done on the recommendations to the Governor. He stated that this was well thought through. How are we going to communicate and prioritization a focus on actionable and measurable items and where are we compared to where we were a year ago.
- Ethan asked how do we as a Council we should proceed. How do we want to use the recommendations internally and how do we want to give recommendations related to outreach, distribution of material, etc.? How do we want to carry forward? Should we postpone for a special meeting before the March meeting?
- Don recommended that between now and the next meeting that a memo sent out after this meeting for recommendation changes.
- Larry recommended that at the working groups look at the sections that pertain to them for recommended changes.
- Ethan stated that we need to address the shorter and long term priorities.
- Steve stated that this is a FHC product and do we want to distribute it to a wider group. Maybe a statewide group that could publicize it.
- Scott stated that fire season is coming quick in the southwest. We need to get our priority items for Governor's review.
- Ethan said that the recommended process makes sense.
- Larry stated that we are not looking for changes, but for priorities.
- Ron stated that we need to move forward.
- ***Action Item: Ethan to set up a meeting for the end of January before fire season hits. Priorities for the FHC: Review the priorities/recommendations for the Governor. Change priorities if necessary. Send recommendations to Kevin and then the Governor for her outreach.***
- Steve stated that we need to address benchmarks, a score card, priorities and timeframes. The FHC should look at recommendations related to other agencies also.
- Scott stated that the March meeting could be held in conjunction with the Arizona Wildfire Academy. ***Action Item: Scott to look at a date that week.***

6. **Corporation Commission Presentation Report ~ Marcus Selig & Patrick Rappold**

- Patrick stated that we had a good discussion with the Corporation Commission on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. The meetings were setup to inform the members.
- Marcus stated that the Commissioners were supportive. All the members had questions. The members were met with individually, five members and a staffer.
- Rob & Steve G. spoke on APS renewable energy for wind and solar power.

- Steve G. said that the Commissioners were made aware to look for biomass applications similar to the Drake Cement Plant one which was turned down. Chairman Pierce pointed out that the Drake Cement Plant was a design study problem.
- Scott stated that the Commissioners were informed about the value of restoring the forest and the good things that it does.
- Patrick reported that the FHC members were given copies of the power point presentation that was presented yesterday.
- Ethan stated that we have started reaching out to the legislatures, but more interaction with them would be a positive thing.
- Ethan asked is the 4FRI presentation is appropriate for them.
- Kevin mentioned that we have Game and Fish and Water Resources that could be used as a package team. Suggest to them the Biomass Conference which will be held in May.
- Rob asked is thank you notes were going to be sent to the Commissioners.  
*Action item: Scott will send out thank you notes to the Commissioners we met with. Discussion will take place with Kevin on the next steps that we need to do with the Commission.*
- Ethan felt it was a productive meeting. We need to limit ourselves to FHC issue in the biomass realm and need to get on the docket and discuss it. Recommendation to move forward on this matter.
- Steve – bring out information as they relate to biomass. Force them to use it. On a small scale biomass is sustainable for a period of time.
- Paul Summerfelt stated a note of caution of regulatory agency of doing pile burning. It can never be done.
- Ethan stated that more specific ideas need to be worked out with the Corporation Commission. *Action item: Scott will work with Ethan on this.*

7. **Report of Coordination between Restoration Efforts Statewide ~Marcus Selig**

- Marcus stated that on January 4, 2012, they meet with 4FRI and Firescape in Prescott. The groups got together ideas and shared issues, concerns, lessons learned and presented projects facing them jointly. Next steps were unclear, but will continue meeting.
- One step is from the communication standpoint. We need to spread the benefit of restoration to the entire state. We need to do restoration and why we need to do it.
- Looking at a statewide fundraiser.
- FHC should discuss and design a strategy for this.
- Sue Sitko stated it was a great first step. Issues were shared regarding the economy and communications. Economic issues are different between the north and south. Variety of treatments looking for funding sources. Discussed the importance of prescribed and natural fire. Look at fundraising partnerships with utilities through ACE through utility bills. Northern Forest Foundation said they would participate.
- Steve said there are lessons learned from 4FRI with NEPA. Coronado has 500,000 acres approved that need to go through the process. There is a great area of exchange.

- Ethan stated that we are not going to solve the problems alone. We need to find industries to help offset the costs. We could leverage those funds with additional federal funds. Find creative ways to promote for dollar assistance.
- This discussion and issues does not need to be a formal council effort. We need to stay coordinating the benefits to be gained at the statewide level. This is a statewide effort.
- Larry stated that there seems to be a lot of enthusiasm for restoration.

## **8. Sierra Vista Wildfire Forum Report ~ Ron Williams & Scott Hunt**

- Ron spoke on the Arizona Wildfire Forum which was held in December. Due to inclement weather the Eagar forum had to be postponed to a later date. The Sierra Vista Forum had approximately 50 individuals in attendance.
- WUI fire codes, CWPP, Firewise, and the Ready, Set, & Go program. Additional information was provided on the attached handout.
- Ron stated that Scott spoke at the Arizona Insurance Council Board Meeting.
- *Action Item: Darrell, Scott, & Ron will be rescheduling the date for the Eagar Forum. Farmer's Insurance will cover the cost of the luncheon.*
- Ethan asked if there was a sense by actions or decisions from anyone regarding the previous forums.
- Ron stated that a fire official from Hellsgate Department attended the 2009 WUI Code Forum. At this meeting his attitude has changed. Five communities have accepted WUI fire codes.
- Darrell reported that it is difficult for the politicians to accept the code. In 2003 we began Firewise Communities. CCR's are more restrictive than the WUI codes.
- Steve asked if there is a trend for the insurance industry to have incentives.
- Ron reported each agent has own criteria. They do and will discount insurance rates. A change of attitude needs to be done nationally. We did have representation from the House & Senate at the Insurance Council meeting.
- Ethan stated that this is an opportunity to share success stories from the past 9 years.
- Darrell reported that he will be doing that at the upcoming Eagar forum.
- Ron stated that we got interest in follow-up on CWPPs. Some areas haven't done one yet.
- Ethan stated that there doesn't appear to be enough incentive to do work around homes. The bottom line it is supportive. It is being noted that Firewise is real and could provide incentives with homeowners.
- Ron stated that the insurance industry uses the ISO rating. It is the way it reduces rates for their constituents. Firewise booklets are being distributed by the agents.
- Paul Summerfelt reported that we learned from Darrell's initial work. It took 18 months to take the code and refine it to fit Flagstaff. When it came to Council and passed it was because we worked ahead. Several years of work, where we saw the work going on is a difficult proposition. Code issues sound easy, but aren't always.
- Firewise is supported statewide. Many communities (46) are recognized, but there are so many more that are not. Some areas are more active than others.

- ISO rating is based on staffing, budget appropriations, training, department issues and nothing to do with vegetation. We may need to with the national ISO rating system to see about including this portion.

9. **Payment for Watershed Services Presentation & Discussion ~ Erik Nielsen, NAU**

- Erik Nielsen did a presentation for the group on the Payment for Watershed Services (PWS) Programs on Western National Forest Lands: Feasibility & Design Considerations. (Power point presentation attached)
- Discussion took place on the background, the problem, watershed services, payments for watershed services, and the flow chart on design considerations for PWS on National Forest Lands.
- Ethan asked if a tax credit had been looked at.
- Pascal stated the logic of additional resources. Has a calculation been run with a scale to the Phoenix valley.
- Erik stated we can make assumption that actual resources are more than sufficient. For 4FRI it is politically a different question.
- How does the public see it? In surveys done there was a willingness to pay, but they requested more public education and outreach.
- Marcus stated that Erik and other researches put on a workshop with the USFS and Flagstaff recommending the ideas on pilot projects. Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, ERI, and Flagstaff Fire are trying to get the pilot program. Priority will be given to Flagstaff watersheds. Watershed services will be presented to the Flagstaff Cabinet. We are testing the waters. There is a threat to Lake Mary watershed which provides water resources to City of Flagstaff.
- Ethan stated we should go small in Flagstaff. Look at the broader context. We would not want a system where work done loses its value over time. If there is not follow-up, is there any opportunity to focus to follow-up work on.
- Erik stated that funding is a practical concern, burning and control entry. A cost benefit analyst needs to be done.
- Patrick stated that the biomass boiler uses a lot of water.
- Don asked if research was done on the diminished amount of water.
- Charlie Ester (SRP) stated that they treat 30% of watersheds. NAU and SRP are on a joint project with some thinning, burning, and experimental restorative project. This will be a 15 to 20 year effort.
- Ethan asked what would you like the FHC to do?
- Erik ~ a financing tool to help enhance restoration efforts building support and develop strategy to proceed. Use the FHC as an ability to capture signatures resources such as SRP and others who might be interested to proceed with the project.
- Ethan ~ how do you want to continue to work with the FHC along with conversation with the Governor's office? We could assist with conversation regarding this issue.
- Sue indicated the survey data that was available. Is the report ready for publication?

- Erik stated that some of the researchers are meeting in Washington DC this week and doing the same presentation. A desk partnership guide will be developed.

#### 10. **Working Group Updates**

- ***Coordination Oversight Group/ Climate ~ Christine Dawe***  
Absent - Nothing to report
- ***Forest Plan Revisions ~ Ethan Aumack***
  - The Forest Plan text revision has been finalized on the letter. We don't have time or members present to ratify it. It will be sent out by email. Effective tomorrow will get it approved by email.
- ***Smoke Issues ~ Steve Gatewood*** Absent - Nothing to report
- ***Interaction with WGA – Todd Schulke*** Absent – Nothing to report
- ***Legislation ~ Scott Hunt***
  - HB 2332 ~ healthy forest enterprise incentives; extension
  - HB 2336 ~ land conservation fund; forest restoration
  - Also one creating a Secretary for Agriculture & Natural Resources
  - ***Action item: Scott will send out list of bills relating to forestry.***

#### 12. **Call to the Public** ~ None

#### 13. **Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- March 8<sup>th</sup> ***date will be changed in junction with the Arizona Wildfire Academy in Prescott the week of March 12-16, 2012***
- May 10<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup> ***locations will be in Flagstaff, Payson, or east part of the rim***
- November 8<sup>th</sup> ***location will be in the Tucson area***

*This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.*

*Dated this February 6, 2012*  
Governor's Forest Health Council  
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

